

Dene 4.6.1977, and was observed at Heddon on the Wall by H. T. Eales on 21.5.1977. A male was seen flying across an open bare field between Bolam Lake and Shaftoe Craggs on 22.5.1977 (A.G.L.). A single ovum was found at Wallington on *Alliaria petiolata*, by P. Summers on 20.6.1977.

In 1978 the increase was much in evidence in the S. Tyne and N. Tyne areas. It was seen at Brunton, Humshaugh and Haughton on 28.5.1978 by M. E. Braithwaite, at Chirdon Burn by A. M. Tynan, at the Kielder Dam site on 3.6.1978 (A.G.L.), and between Riding Mill and Slaley on 29.5.1978 by Mrs. Pybus of Dipton House.

It is clear therefore that in south Northumberland (VC 67), there is evidence of almost a continued presence of the Orange Tip from the time of John Wallis (1796) to the present (1978), with a possible diminution of numbers in the period between 1872 and sometime before 1899, when Robson published the first part of his "Catalogue". This partial break coincides more or less with the apparent extinction in Berwickshire lasting the greater part of a century.

(to be continued)

THE GREAT BROCADE (EUROIS OCCULTA L.): A STRANGE HABIT OF THE LARVAE IN CAPTIVITY. — Whilst in Scotland this year I collected a number of larvae of this species, and fed them up on birch at home. After about a week I noticed in one cage a larva infested with a hymenopterous parasite. These parasites had spun up a communal "candy floss" cocoon on a birch stem. Being a bit lazy at the time I left the stem in the cage as the *occulta* had plenty of foodplant. On preparing to change over to fresh food a few days later, I noticed with amazement a full grown *occulta* larva with its head and front segments actually inside the parasite cocoon. The following day the cocoon had vanished. I can only assume the larva had devoured the entire cocoon with its unsavoury occupants (my apologies to hymenopterists). There was no shortage of birch in the cage.

No doubt this change of diet suited the larva, but I wonder if this particular instance classes *occulta* as a cannibal. The larvae certainly do not eat one another in captivity. Incidentally, I have found they have a great liking for birch catkins which they devour readily, usually leaving some of the catkin uneaten. — J. PLATTS, 11 Maydowns Road, Chestfield, Whitstable Kent.

LIMENITIS CAMILLA LINN. AT FRISTON, NEAR EASTBOURNE, EAST SUSSEX. — In rather dull weather on the 20th July, 1978, I observed two *Limentis camilla* flitting through the trees in an area of Friston Forest where honeysuckle abounded. This prompted further investigation and on the 21st of July, another dull day, a further five were seen in the same locality. I decided to wait for a sunny day and luckily I only had to wait until the 24th July, when I returned to see at least 20 in flight, basking in the sun or resting on bramble flowers. — MARK PARSONS, 43 King's Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex.